



## **Washington Poison Center**

***June 2014***

Poisoning is the leading cause of injury related deaths in Washington. The Washington Poison Center (WAPC) is statewide provider of immediate, free and expert treatment advice and assistance on the telephone in case of exposure to poisonous, hazardous or toxic substances.

The Department of Health is directed by chapter 18.76 RCW to provide a statewide program of poison and drug information services. The Washington Poison Center is to provide 24 hour emergency telephone management and treatment referral for victims of poisoning and overdose, as well as information to health professionals on the management of poisoned patients.

### ***Services***

- The DOH provides funding to the WAPC to provide 24 hour emergency telephone consultation on exposures to poisonous, hazardous or toxic substances.
- WAPC provides first aid intervention in 140 languages along with assistance for the hearing impaired.
- Poisoning prevention and information materials are available for distribution in eight languages as well as Mr. Yuk stickers. WAPC also provides resources online.
- WAPC provides information regarding environmental and toxicological concerns.
- WAPC assists 9-1-1 personnel with decisions to send aid or recommend home management.

### ***Quick facts – WAPC 2013 data***

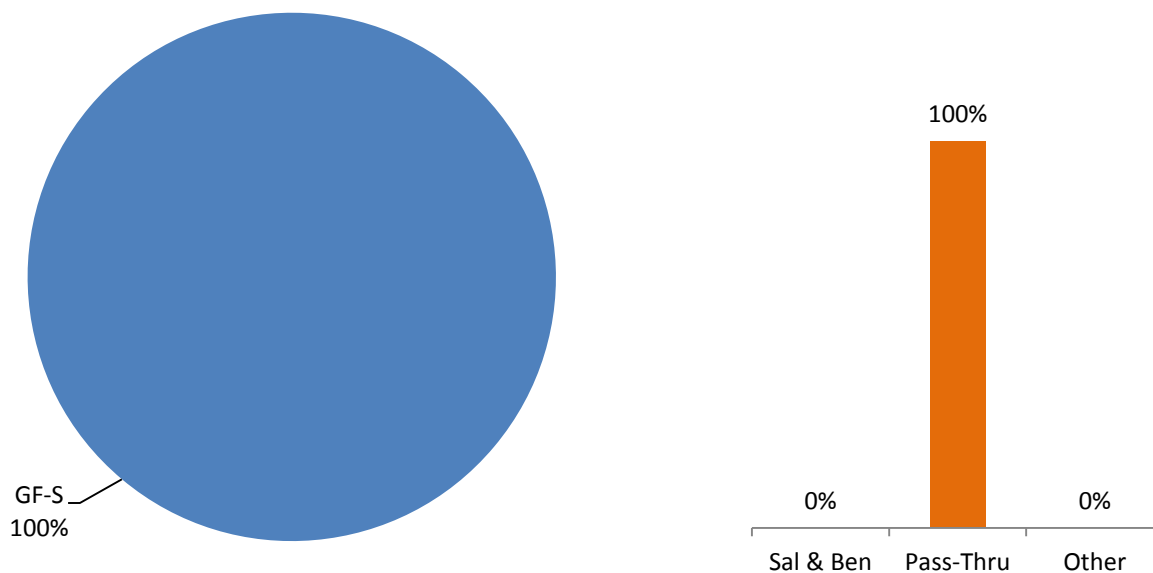
- Human exposures reported to WAPC: 54,930.
- Of these, over 91 percent were managed over the telephone and were not seen in a health care facility.
- Approximately 25 percent of human exposures were followed-up by WAPC staff.
- Just over 50 percent of all exposures were children under the age of six.
- Pet owners and veterinarians were referred to VET PETS, a fee-for-service of the WAPC.

### ***Stakeholders***

- Interest groups such as:
  - Washington State Hospital Association
  - Washington State Medical Association
  - Washington Chapter College of Emergency Physicians
  - Washington Chapter Academy of Pediatric Medicine
  - Safe Kids of Washington
  - Bastyr University
- Health care providers such as:
  - Emergency room physicians and primary care providers
  - Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers
  - 24-hour care facilities like assisted living facilities and nursing homes
  - State agencies such as the Health Care Authority and K-12 schools and the University of Washington
- People in Washington State

## 2013-15 Biennium

### Washington Poison Control Center Fiscal Information



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated	Fees	Total	Sal & Ben	Pass-Thru	Other
Total	1,806,000	0	0	0	1,806,000	0	1,806,000	0

### Recent Funding History

Center for Disease Control and Prevention studies find that every dollar spent on a poison center saves \$7 in overall health care costs.

#### 2009-11 biennium:

- GF-S reduction of \$1,500,000 to the WAPC.
- DOH and Health Care Authority (HCA) secured \$331,000 in federal matching funds through Title XIX Medicaid to help sustain some funding for WAPC.

#### 2011-13 biennium:

- GF-S reduction of \$202,000 to the WAPC contract.